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From: Paul L [mailto:plebo1@san.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 12:52 PM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: MLPAComments: Draft Master Plan Framework public comment from the KFASC

Paul Lebowitz

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MLPA Public Comments

c/o The California Resources Agency

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311

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Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

Via email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Re: MLPA Draft Master Plan Framework comment

February 28, 2005

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

The Kayak Fishing Association of Southern California is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the MLPA Draft Master Plan Framework. The Kayak Fishing Association of Southern California (KFASC) is the only political advocacy group in the state dedicated to kayak anglers. Although the word "Southern" is in our organization's name, our membership is active in central and northern California as well.

On page 23 under *Enforcement and Public Awareness in Considerations in Setting Boundaries*, the third paragraph states:

Siting marine protected areas in locations that are accessible and / or observable, either from the shore or the water, can increase the likelihood that potential illegal activities will be observed and reported...

This section of the document expresses a preference for siting MPAs in accessible areas. On the contrary, MPAs should be located in remote areas for several reasons. First, the more remote areas are likely to have been least impacted by fishing and are likely to offer the richest biological values. Generally inaccessible areas should be prime candidates for MPAs.

Second, accessible areas are by definition the most likely to be used by anglers. Avoidance of impacts on existing usage and attending economic impacts should be a higher priority in the selection of MPAs than convenience for enforcement. Pushing kayakers and small boaters into remote locations away from accessible areas will compromise boating safety. The KFASC urges the state to revise the document to reflect a lower priority for siting MPAs in accessible locations to enhance ease of enforcement.

The KFASC was pleased to read that MPA boundaries are to be easily identifiable (p. 36). This priority will result in fewer, but larger MPAs. The “extra” areas on the margins of the MPAs, included only to provide for easily identifiable boundaries, should be quantified and counted towards the MLPA goal of a network of reserves focused on ecosystem protection.

On page 37, the first bullet point describing the use of surveillance and monitoring technologies mentions the use of monitoring systems on fishing vessels. The point should be revised to read “commercial fishing vessels” to remove any doubt that private boaters will be required to install transponders.

On page 21 and other locations, the document excerpts the MLPA concerning marine reserves, “*the area shall be maintained to the extent practicable in an undisturbed and unpolluted state.*” Taken to its logical conclusion, this statement seems to indicate marine reserves could be closed to navigation. 2852(d) of the MLPA goes on to state about Marine Life Reserves, “*to the extent feasible, the area shall be open to the public for managed enjoyment and study.*” The MLPA should excerpted in full, including the phrase that makes clear MPAs will be open to the public to the extent feasible.

On page 31 and 33, in Suggested Outlines for Management Plans of MPA Network Components, II, vi calls for an assessment of current and anticipated distribution of human uses. Likewise, page 33, IV, h requires an assessment of safety considerations, and V, c, i and ii call for an assessment of what uses are likely to benefit or suffer from the site. Although not pertaining in the text of the Draft Master Plan Framework, the KFASC urges that kayak fishing use and users be included when Management Plan Network Components are assessed.

Thank-you again for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Master Plan Framework. The KFASC looks forward to future opportunities to contribute to the MLPA planning process.

Sincerely,

Paul Lebowitz